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Agricultural Memorandum No. 337

"Spring" 1970 Compared with the Period 1945-69

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Agricultural Memo No. 305[1] proposed a method of assessing "spring" and compared the 25 years 1945 to 1969 for England and Wales.

This memorandum examines the spring of 1970 by the same method and "scores" were found:-

	Coldness	Wetness	Dullness	Overall
Durham	53	15	32	100
Cranwell	52	13	29	94
Cambridge	51	14	28	93
Leckford	50	16	26	92
Shrewsbury	50	15	29	94
Oxford	52	13	28	93
Cardiff	52	13	23	90
Plymouth	50	15	25	90
Average	52.5	14.3	27.5	93.5
Average 1945-69	56.1	13.8	24.4	94.3

For the four month period 1970 scores are similar to those for 1968 although 1970 is rather wetter but sunnier giving overall scores slightly higher (better) than 1968.

Nevertheless, 1970 is still the third below-average spring in succession and comparison month by month shows:-

Number of Years since 1945 with equal on lower scores

	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY
Durham	16	15	4	23
Cranwell	18	4	1	24
Cambridge	18	6	2	24
Leckford	18	6	1	23
Shrewsbury	16	7	5	25
Oxford	18	5	1	25
Cardiff	17	5	2	21
Plymouth	18	10	1	20

(A low score indicates a cold, wet, dull month)

February temperatures were generally around 1°C below average, but well above average sunshine figures (>150% of average at four of the stations)

/contributed

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contributed to fairly high scores.

March and April temperatures continued low - mainly 2° to 4°C below average - and this, combined with generally wet and dull conditions, gave a poor March in all areas except the extreme NE and SW, and one of the worst Aprils of the whole 26-year period. In fact, in many areas, only 1966 and 1951 or 1964 had a worse April.

The overall spring score, however, is much increased by May temperatures of 2° to 3°C above average and rainfall of < 50% of average (as low as 10% of average at Cranwell) with sunshine rather above average.

Reference

Cochrane, J., 1969, An assessment of "Spring", Agr. Memo. No. 305, 1-6.

Any comments or suggestions on this paper should be sent to the author.

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